



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
KALAMAZOO DISTRICT OFFICE



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

June 24, 2008

Mr. Kevin Lettinga, Manager
Walnutdale Farms, LLC
4343 14th Street
Wayland, Michigan 49348

VIOLATION NOTICE VN-003459

Dear Mr. Lettinga:

SUBJECT: Compliance Evaluation
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. MIG010063
Designated Name: Walnutdale Farms Dorr Twp-CAFO – Allegan County

On January 1, 2008, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Water Bureau (WB) staff conducted an inspection of the facility located at 4309 14th Street, Wayland, Michigan, to determine compliance with General Permit No. MIG019000. It was evident during the inspection that Walnutdale Farms, LLC is making significant efforts to prevent environmental issues through facility upgrades and day-to-day maintenance efforts.

Despite these efforts, as detailed in the enclosed inspection report, we observed three permit standard violations which must be addressed:

1. There was a lack of predominance of vegetation in areas of the pasture north of the production area.
2. Gas bubble "hippos" had formed under the liner of the waste storage structure at the north end of the production area.
3. Samples of storm water runoff from the haylage pad indicated high nutrient loads despite what appeared to be a significant level of effort toward maintaining the "ag-bag" diversion system. Under the observed management system, all of this runoff was required to have been collected and stored.

In response to these concerns, please take the following actions:

1. **By July 15, 2008**, submit a corrective action plan to me, at this office, which outlines your plans to address items two through four below. At a minimum, the work plan should include:
 - a. Basic plans and/or written descriptions of actions that have been or will be taken to address these items.
 - b. A date of completion for each item on or before the proposed dates below. If you wish to exceed these time frames, please provide written justification as to why.
2. **By August 1, 2008**, as required by Section I.A.4.a.1.a, please re-establish vegetation in degraded areas of the pasture north of the production area or remove all cattle from the confinement area.

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3. **By October 1, 2008**, as required by Section I.A.4.a.4.e, please install an effective system of relieving gas pressure underneath the existing storage structure such that the liner no longer forms gas pressure bubbles known as "hippos".
4. **By December 1, 2008**, as required by Section I.A.4.a.1.a, implement management and/or construction practices at the haylage pad that either collects contaminated storm water or effectively diverts clean storm water from contact with feed materials.

If you have any questions regarding our findings, please contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,



Jerrod Sanders, Environmental Quality Analyst
Kalamazoo District Office
Field Operations Division
Water Bureau
269-567-3579
269-567-9440 (fax)
SandersJ3@michigan.gov

js/dmm

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Carrie Monosmith, DEQ
Mr. Scott Miller, DEQ

July 9, 2008

Jerrod Sanders, Environmental Quality Analyst
Kalamazoo District Office
Field Operations Division
Water Bureau

Dear Mr. Sanders:

Subject: Compliance Evaluation Response

This letter outlines the actions that will be taken to repair structures, or minimize the risk of discharges occurring from the Walnuthdale Farms, LLC facility at 4343 14th St in Wayland, MI. The potential discharges were noted on January 1, 2008 and addressed in a letter on June 24, 2008 (Violation Notice VN-003459).

Below are listed the items of violation:

1. A lack of predominance of vegetation in the pasture area north of the production area.
2. The formation of gas bubbles "hippos" under the liner of the waste storage structure at the north of the production area (the runoff catch basin).
3. The runoff from the haylage pad contained nutrients and was not being captured.

Below are the actions (and dates) that will be taken to address the identified issues (as required in the permit):

1. **By August 1, 2008** the vegetation in the pasture area will be fenced off and reseeded using a pasture or grass mixture. Cattle will not be allowed to re-enter this area until the new seeding is established with the installation of a temporary fence. This vegetation will be monitored and grazed appropriately when the seeding allows.
2. **By October 1, 2008** the gas bubbles under the lining of the storage facility to the north of the production facility have been a challenge and Walnuthdale is currently working with the manufactures to address these bubbles. Continued efforts will be done to address these and to ensure that proper management of the storage facility will continue.
3. **By December 1, 2008 (or as feed removal occurs)** the diversion of clean water and collection of contaminated water will be addressed on the haylage pad on the south side of the facility. Walnuthdale has been working with CJD Consultants to design a series of poured curbs, new tile inlets and collection sites as well as diversion tools to collect the runoff from this facility. Initial designs have been made and are being reviewed and will be implemented as soon as feed bags are removed from the necessary areas. A copy of the proposed drawing will be

included with this letter. The current design allows the various combinations of collection, the pad will be divided into a north and south half by a curb and the diversion curb at the west end will allow all, none or either half to be collected into the catch basin or diverted into the drain tile if the water is clean (if no feed bags are present).

All changes and dates indicated above will be updated in a revision of Walnutdale Farms, LLC's Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, and a copy of the schedule of implementation will be made available to you by Green Valley Agricultural, Inc. when complete.

If there are any questions on the proposed solutions please contact me.

Thank You,

Kevin Lettinga, Manager
Walnutdale Farms, LLC